

**MINUTES
CITY OF LONSDALE
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2016**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rud called a meeting of the Lonsdale City Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 415 Central Street West.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Everyone stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava

Members Absent: None

City Staff Present: City Administrator Joel Erickson, City Planner Benjamin Baker and Chief of Police Jason Schmitz

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rud asked if there were any additions, deletions or corrections to the agenda.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to approve the agenda as presented. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. Motion carried.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a. Ordinance 2016-266 (2016 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2015-261 (2015 Fee Schedule)

Rud read through the public hearing notice, and he opened the hearing. Erickson provided the Council with a marked-up fee schedule, which clearly showed the proposed changes. The Council also reviewed a Staff Report that summarized the proposed 2016 changes to the City Fee Schedule. Erickson went through and explained the reasoning for each fee change. While reviewing licensing fees, Furrer suggested that the City should erect signage stating that peddlers licenses are required. Rud asked if there were any comments off the floor. No responded to his invitation. Erickson noted that there was no written or verbal comments provided prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to close the public hearing. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0. The public hearing closed.

7. PRESENTATION OF CITIZEN PETITIONS AND COMMENTS

None

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

None

9. OLD BUSINESS

None

10. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Consider Approval of Ordinance 2016-266 (2016 Fee Schedule), an Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2015-261 (2015 Fee Schedule) – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson stated that a public hearing was held earlier in the meeting, and he recommended approving Ordinance 2016-266.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Furrer to approve Ordinance 2016-266 (2016 Fee Schedule). Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

- b. Presentation on the Minnesota Community Solar Gardens Program – Corey Ostrander, SoCore Energy

Corey Ostrander, SoCore Energy, provided the Council with a detailed and informative presentation on SoCore’s solar garden projects. He explained that if the City sets up a 15-25 year agreement with SoCore, then the City would receive a credit on its monthly Xcel Energy electric bill. He said that there are no up-front costs. He said that Xcel has a goal to make sure that it uses a certain percentage of green energy sources, including wind and solar power. Ostrander went through the different agreement options and the potential savings that the City could experience, if signed up for the Solar Rewards Program. He said that it takes 4-5 acres of solar arrays to produce one Megawatt of power. Pelava asked about natural disasters. Ostrander said that SoCore doesn’t get paid unless their solar energy arrays are producing power. Rud said that it may be beneficial to explore how businesses in the new business park could take advantage of this incentive.

The Council agreed with the idea to go “green” and save tax payers money at the same time and they directed City Staff to continue discussions with SoCore. The Council thanked Ostrander for coming to the meeting.

- c. Consider Approval of Resolution 2016-04, a Resolution Approving the Regional Economic Development Priorities for Rice County – Joel Erickson, City Administrator
Erickson said that the City Staff and Mayor Rud recently met with officials from Faribault and Rice County regarding establishing priorities to present to our State Legislators to increase opportunities for economic development in Rice County. Erickson went through a list of the projects, including a regional trail expansion, bus transit to the metro area, broadband, I-35 improvements, and regional parks status. Rud

said that it is important for Lonsdale to improve the I-35 interchange at Hwy 19 and construct a Park & Ride at that same intersection.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2016-04, a resolution approving the Regional Economic Development Priorities for Rice County. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

d. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Negotiate With the Property Owner/Representative of 897 Colorado St. NW to Purchase the Property – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson stated that the property/mobile home at 897 Colorado Street NW is currently up for sale, and he explained that the City has been dealing with on-going blight issues at that property. Erickson explained that the Building Inspector has been in contact with the property owner/representative due to concerns that a roof modification was not permitted and does not meet the standards of the Building Code and therefore puts the home into an inhabitable condition. Erickson asked the Council to allow City Staff to negotiate with the property owner/representative to purchase the property for a fair price. He said that the estimated market value of the property is \$42,000.00. Erickson noted that the property is probably only worth ¼ to ½ of the current estimated market value due to its condition. Erickson noted that the neighboring tax-forfeited property was purchased by the City recently for around \$15,000.00. The Council provided a few different redevelopment ideas that could be done with the property, if a negotiated price could be reached. Kodada suggested that the City or other non-profit organization could build new homes on at 897 and 817 Colorado Street NW. He also asked if access from 10th Avenue or Railway Street would be feasible. Furrer stated that she doesn't like the idea of buying up blighted properties. The Council agreed that it is definitely worth seeing if the property owner would consider come down with his sale price.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to authorize Staff to negotiate with the property owner/representative of 897 Colorado St. NW to purchase the property. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

e. Consider Approval of Resolution 2016-05, a Resolution to Contract With a Councilmember – Joel Erickson, City Administrator

Erickson stated that the City obtained two quotes to fix a water pipe leak at 336 1st Avenue SE. He explained that the leaking water service provides water to 3 twin-homes. He said that Rud Construction submitted the lowest quote. Erickson further explained that since the leak was found to be on the residence side of the curb stop, the City will be reimbursed from each of the six properties for the fix.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Pelava to approve Resolution 2016-05, a resolution to contract with a Councilmember. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: Rud. Vote: 4-0-1.

f. Consider Approval to Make a Conditional Job Offer to Zachary Ambroz at Step 1 / \$20.55/hr. – Jason Schmitz, Chief of Police

Police Chief Schmitz stated that the Human Resources Committee held interviews back on November 17, 2015 and selected Zachary Ambroz for the full-time police officer position. He noted that several applicants interviewed very well. He said that Ambroz came highly recommended by his co-workers and other people associated with him. Schmitz recommended offering Ambroz a conditional job offer contingent upon successful passing the psychological and medical exams.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to approve making a Conditional Job Offer to Zachary Ambroz at Step 1 / \$20.55/hr. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

g. Consider Approval to Accept Wade Murray's Letter of Resignation as Police Officer – Jason Schmitz, Chief of Police

Schmitz stated that Police Officer Wade Murray recently submitted his letter of resignation. He said that Murray has been employed with the City since October of 2005. Schmitz said that Murray was a great help to the department, and he will truly be missed by his fellow officers, staff, and the community. The Council and Schmitz wished Murray the best of luck in the future and at his new job in Dundas.

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to accept Wade Murray's Letter of Resignation as Police Officer. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

h. Consider Approval to Authorize Staff to Begin the Process to Fill a Vacancy for a Full-Time Police Officer at Step 1 / \$20.55/hr. – Jason Schmitz, Chief of Police

With the recent resignation of Officer Murray, Schmitz asked the Council for approval to start the process to replace his position. He said that the Human Resources Committee selected Lindsay Olson to fill the next full-time position opening. Schmitz recommended starting the background process on Olson in preparation for a potential February start date.

A motion was made by Pelava and seconded by Furrer to authorize Staff to begin the process to fill a vacancy for a Full-Time Police Officer at Step 1 / \$20.55/hr.. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

i. Consider Approval of Resolution 2016-06, a Resolution Designating Official Appointments to the Lonsdale Public Library Board

Mayor Rud thanked everyone who applied for the 2016 Advisory Board position openings. Rud nominated Mary Ray Jirik and Melissa Paggen to the Lonsdale Public Library Board.

A motion was made by Daleiden and seconded by Kodada to approve Resolution 2016-06, a resolution designating official appointments to the Lonsdale Public Library Board.

Vote for: Daleiden, Kodada, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Vote against: None. Abstained: None. Vote: 5-0.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

a. Department Reports

Erickson provided an update on the Area No. 5 – Phase II construction plans. He stated that City Staff and the EDA are working on a City Website update that should be complete by March.

Baker provided the Council with pictures of the recently completed dock sections that will be installed this spring at the Rezac Nature Preserve pond. He said that City Staff met at the Rezac Nature Preserve pond and came up with a plan to transport and maneuver the dock sections into place.

b. Council Reports

Council Member Daleiden

Daleiden provided an update on Lonsdale Liquor.

Council Member Kodada

Kodada stated that the Park Board will be meeting on January 26th.

Council Member Furrer

Furrer stated that the Library Board and EDA will be meeting next week. She provided a brief summary of the Hot Reads for Cool Nights program.

Council Member Pelava

Pelava provided a brief building permit update, and he noted that the full Community Development Report will be available at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Rud

Rud announced that the Lonsdale Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their annual dinner at the end of the month. He said that “Meeting with Mayor” will be on January 30th from 8:30 – 10:30 am at City Hall. He said that Bingo is still going on at the Whistle Stop Tavern. He said that he will be promoting Lonsdale on KCHK on January 25th.

12. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Kodada and seconded by Furrer to adjourn the meeting. Vote for: Daleiden, Kodad, Rud, Furrer, and Pelava. Against: None Vote 5-0. Motion carried. The meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Joel A. Erickson, City Administrator